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XI
Chronology of Recent Interest in Exceptional Functions of the Human Body in the People's Republic of China

1978 First scientific research conducted on exceptional functions of the human body (EFHB) with Tang Yu.

1979 (March 11) Article in *Sichuan Daily* about a 12–year old boy, Tang Yu, being able to "read" with his ears touches off widespread interest.

1979 (May) Article in *People's Daily* criticized the *Sichuan Daily* report as unscientific.

1979 (September) A major Chinese science journal, *Ziran Zazhi* [Nature Journal], carried a report on "nonvisual" pattern recognition" in which popular accounts of exceptional human body function were confirmed.

1980 An unofficial preliminary organization entitled the Chinese Human Body Science Association (Preparatory Committee) was set up under the auspices of *Nature Journal.*

1980 (February) *Ziran Zazhi* [Nature Journal] and the Chinese Human Body Science Association held a parapsychology conference in Shanghai with participants from over 20 research institutes and universities.

1981 A news film on EFHB, "Do You Believe?," was produced by the Central Newsreel and Documentary Studio and was shown on TV and in many theaters. This resulted in hundreds of children claiming they had psi ability. This in turn led to the formation of over 100 centers to study these abilities with the cooperation of at least 100 formally trained scholars.

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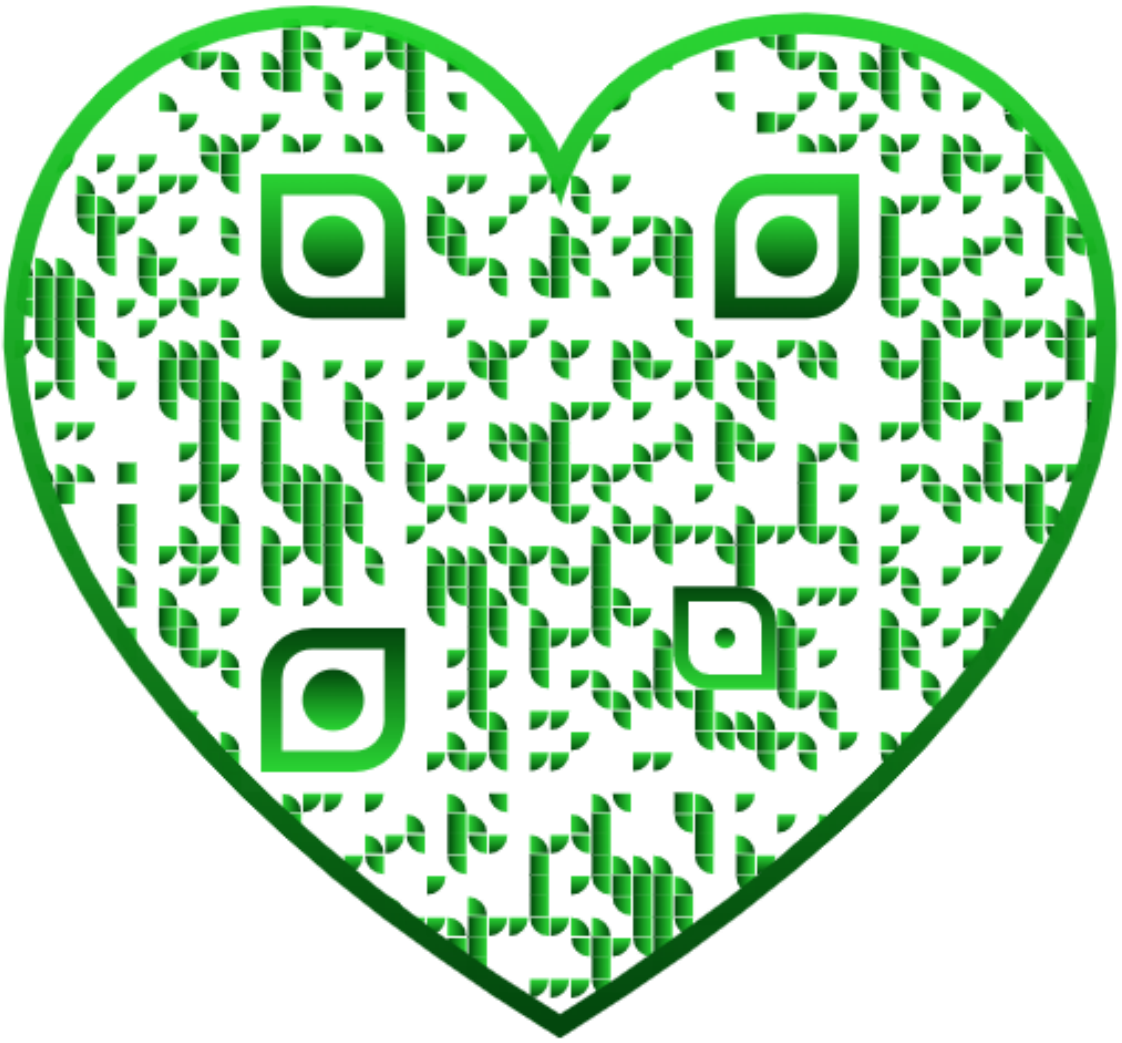

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1981 (May) A second conference on parapsychology organized by the Chinese Human Body Science Association was held in Chongqing. This led to publication of a series of papers in *Ziran Zazhi.*

1981 (October) The State Science Commission set up a special group to study exceptional human body function.

1981 (October) Organized by Dr. Stanley Krippner of Saybrook Institute, a group of American and Canadian scientists, physicians, and educators visited the People's Republic of China and attended 5 formal technical meetings.

1981 In order to accommodate the many papers submitted to *Nature Journal*, a monthly newletter, the *EFHB Bulletin*, was initiated by *Nature Jounal.*

1981 *China Encyclopedia Almanac* uses the term "extraordinary functions of the human body."*

1981 (October 30) Summary statement issued by the Committee for the Study of Exceptional Human Functions who had visited the PRC earlier in the month.

1982 (February 24) Chinese Academy of Sciences sponsored a public hearing in Beijing attended by 4,000 scholars, in which the cases reported were analyzed and most of them considered to be unfounded. They called for "fair but strictly controlled" tests to lead to a final judgment. This disapproval of psi research was widely published in the two most important government–authorized media, Xinghua News Agency and the *People's Daily.*

1982 (February 25) *People's Daily* presented the view that no solid evidence for the paranormal had been put forth.

1982 (April) A joint trial was arranged by the Party's National Committee of Science at Beijing Teacher's College. Proponents of both sides attended. The results were mostly negative, with the exception of those of ZBS (Zhang Baosheng).

* The entire article has been translated into English and is printed in Section IIC.

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1982 (May 13) Both sides of the debate appealed to the Party. The decision was announced by Hu Yaobang, the Party's Gereral Secretary. Exceptional functions of the human body was rejected as an approved subject of scientific research, but a minority group of scientists was to be allowed to continue their research and report it in an internally circulated publication for the consideration of interested scientists. The media were requested not to publish on the topic. Formal university research and government funding was halted.

1982 (August) An invited speech was given by two Chinese scientists, Chen Hsin and Mei Lei, at the joint convention of the Parapsychological Association and the Society for Psychical Research held at Cambridge University.

1983 A series of PK experiments with the subject Zhang Baosheng (Z) were conducted by 19 researchers led by Prof. Lin Shuhuang of the physics department of Beijing Teacher's College. The results were reported in *EFHB Research.*

1984 Zhang Baosheng became a full-time subject of the military-run psi research team at what was called the 507 Institute, or the Institute of Space Medico-Engineering (ISME) in Beijing. Thus, psi research at ISME was official and funded.

1985 In an interview with Paul Dong in the March, 1985 issue of *Psi Research,* Larissa Vilenskaya asked if Chinese psi research was continuing. He replied that the government ordered the scientists not to refer publicly to their work. The research continues but is published only in special journals for internal use only.

1985 (August) At the 1985 convention of the Parapsychological Association, H.E. Puthoff of SRI International reported an attempt to repeat some experiments reported by researchers from the People's Republic of China at the 1982 convention of the Parapsychological Association. The repetition was partially successful, although smaller in magnitude than the Chinese results.

1985 (August) A PRC-made film on qigong was presented during a workshop on the "Status of Psi Research in the People's Republic of China" at the 28th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association in Medford, MA,

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August 12, 1985. The panel is described in *Psi Research*, 1985 (Sep/Dec), 4(3/4), pp. 126–129.

1985 (September 5) Guangzhou University initiated first qigong course.

1985 (September 14–26) A delegation of Chinese doctors who study the therapeutic effects of Qigong met with American physicians at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Cambridge Hospital, Cambridge, MA.

1985 (September 17–21) A national qigong conference was held in Xian.

1985 (December) The China Qigong Science Association gained government approval.

1986 Interest in qigong expanded after several highly successful demonstrations were highly publicized.

1987 The ISME team produced a film about PK in which Zhang Baosheng served as subject. It showed a marked medical pill passing through glass. Military support of psi research was indicated when this film was awarded a "Scientific Research Achievement Prize" of the second class by the Spacefight Department.

1987 Dr. Qian Zuesen was named chair of the Chinese Science and Technology Association, which coordinates Chinese scientific research. He strongly supported qigong research.

1987 (Late) In a directive, the Educational Department for the first time listed qigong training courses in Chinese universities. Qigong treatment clinics were set up and hospitals expanded qigong departments. The Party informally changed its earlier ruling, giving private instructions over a period of time to some of the Party's senior leaders. Many of the leaders themselves were convinced by qigong.

1988 (October) An International Qigong Science Convention was held in Beijing. A total of 142 papers from six countries in Asia were given.

1988 (November) The World Academic Society of Medical Qigong was formed, with members from over 20 countries.

1988 (November) A Second National Conference of the Chinese

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Society of Somatic Science was held in Beijing.

1989 (September) A second International Qigong Convention, together with the First National Old People's Qigong Study Convention, was held in Xian in Shanxi Province. Over 600 papers were presented.

1990 Lin Shuhuang of Beijing Teacher's College was promoted to head of the College's Scientific Research Coordinating Office. He established the Comprehensive Technology Institute, which has the official support of the Chinese National Science Foundation, enabling him to conduct official psi (somatic science) research.

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